

Foodgrains Production in Assam:

2889. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the target fixed for foodgrains production during the last three years in Assam;

(b) the details of the steps taken by Government to increase foodgrains production in the State during this period; and

(c) the details of the investment proposed to be made in the State in this regard during the remaining period of the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Foodgrains production targets during the last three years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 were 34.73, 34.99 and 36.05 lakh tonnes respectively.

(b) In order to supplement the efforts of State Governments for increasing foodgrains production, Centrally Sponsored Scheme on rice, was under implementation during first three years of Ninth Five Year Plan by Government of India. Besides this Technology Mission on Pulses, Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP) and Minikit Programmes on Cereals and Pulses were implemented.

Under these programmes emphasis is laid on the transfer of improved Crop Production Technologies through production technology demonstration, farmers training. Besides, to motivate the farmers to adopt improved Crop Production Technologies incentives are provided through respective schemes on the use of input like certified/high yielding varieties/hybrid seeds, improved farm implements and sprinkler/drip irrigation system.

From October, 2000 alongwith other 27 Central Sponsored Schemes, scheme on rice, has been sub-sumed under Macro Management mode with a view to provide flexibility to adopt regionally differentiated technology suited to their agro-climatic conditions.

(c) Under Macro-Management mode an amount of Rs. 11.60 and 12.00 crore have been allocated as Central assistance for the year

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RAJYA SABHA

2000-2001 and 2001-2002 respectively for the work plan submitted by the State for different activities.

Price Stabilisation Policy

2890. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are in the process of working out a price stabilization policy (arrangement) to check rapid fluctuations in market prices of farm produce, particularly, that of cash crops;

(b) if so, whether this would help the farmers; and

(c) whether a final decision is expected in this regard and the likely benefits the farmers will get?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) In order to stabilize prices of agricultural commodities, the Government is already implementing Agricultural Price Policy. The Government fixes each season the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities. The MSPs are decided by using a methodology evolved over the years. The Government decides on the MSPs for various agricultural commodities taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), the views of State Governments and Central Ministries as well as such other relevant factors, which in the opinion of the Government are important for fixation of the MSPs. Whenever prices fall below MSP level, the specified nodal agencies enter the market and undertake procurement. For commodities not covered under MSP, Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) is under implementation having the same objective of price stabilization, instruments of trade are also being used to check fluctuation in domestic prices.